



**Easter Seals Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain, Inc.**  
**Regional Service Center**  
4400 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 761-3680  
Fax: (406) 761-5110

EXHIBIT 14  
DATE 1/22/13  
HB Senior Long Term Care

January 22, 2013

Rep. Ron Ehli, Chairman  
Joint Health and Human Services Appropriations Sub-Committee  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Chairman Ehli and members of the committee:

I am Laurie Miller, representing Easter Seals-Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain (ESGW), based in Great Falls. Easter Seals-Goodwill is a strong, stable organization with a commitment to serve individuals with disabilities and disadvantages which we have done for the past 65 years. We are one of the largest non-profit organizations in Montana with more than 800 employees.

ESGW provides a wide array of Senior and Long Term Care services throughout the State including skilled home health, in-home hospice care, adult day care, and personal care services. In these programs, we serve elderly and physically disabled consumers of the SLTC Division in addition to individuals with developmental disabilities and with severe and disabling mental illness.

As a provider of services and a Montana employer, ESGW supports at a minimum the Senior and Long Term Care budget proposal. We support the 2% rate increase per year for all providers. This is essential to (1) reinstate some of the funding that was cut by the executive branch, and (2) to begin providing funding that can help providers meet some of our increased business costs.

Aside from what is generally called "cost of doing business" increases, in 2014, our company like others will face a significant increase of health insurance as required by the Affordable Care Act. For us, the employer's cost to provide health insurance to all our current employees meeting the requirements - at a minimum - is projected to increase more than \$325,000 annually. This assumes no increase in the number of employees and no increase in our premiums. However, we anticipate the individual mandate requiring people to obtain insurance or pay a fine will increase participation in our plan which at the most conservative estimate adds nearly another \$130,000. In addition, we have been adding more employees in recent years to adequately staff our mix of programs.

We support the Community First Choice Option for Medicaid. Community First Choice is a consumer-centered, consumer-controlled program with increased service opportunities promoting choice and independence for those we serve. Community First Choice is a well-rounded comprehensive approach to de-institutionalized care and improving quality of life options for the populations served by Senior and Long Term Care. This initiative promotes safety and well-being for those most vulnerable. It will create jobs, increase service options and increase accountability of providers. It is also a permanent enhanced funding source that does not deplete the general fund. We also support the Money Follows the Person Transition Grant.

I thank you for hearing my testimony and ask for your support of HB 2.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Miller, RN



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